



Burroughs Corporation



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your invitation to
ACTION



ACTION...

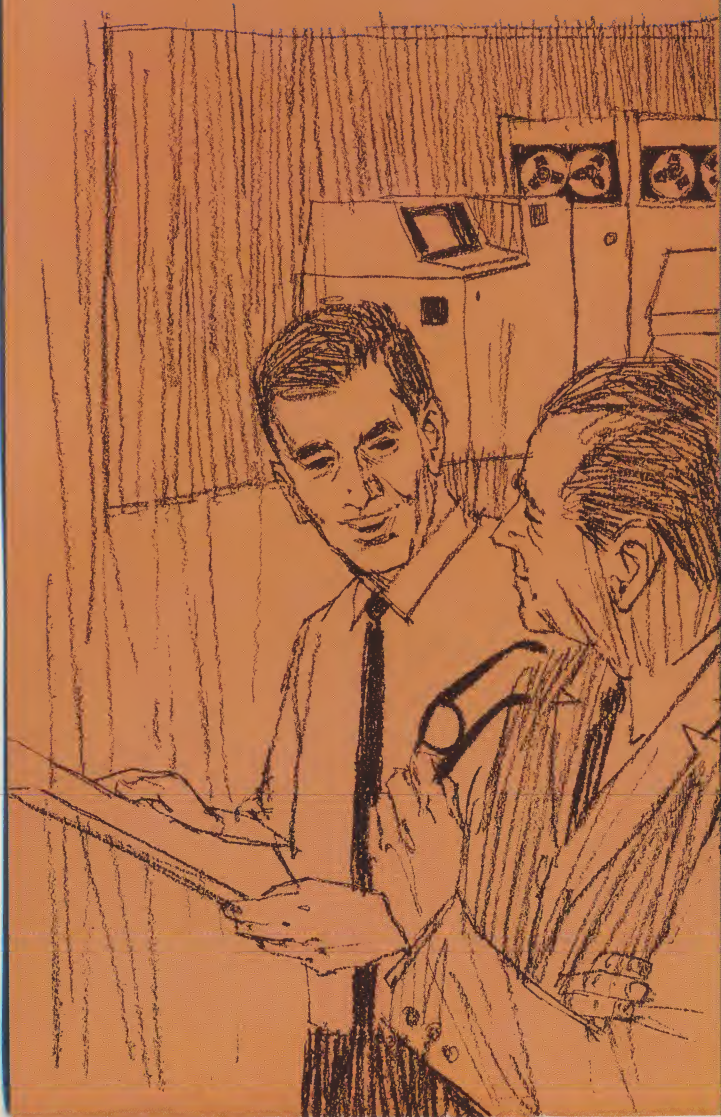
a manufacturing control system now in operation that is years ahead in concept, tested and proven in use.

At Burroughs Corporation's ElectroData Division in Pasadena, California, the ACTION system has:

- **minimized shortages**
- **reduced surplus**
- **solved scheduling problems**

After just two years of gradual phase-in at Pasadena, the ACTION system is now helping plant management realize substantial annual savings in reduced inventories, more economical parts purchasing, and other efficiencies resulting from tighter control. Appropriate portions of the system are now being installed at other manufacturing facilities of Burroughs Corporation.

Since the management problems of control over shortages, surplus and scheduling are essentially the same in most manufacturing firms, the basic principles and concepts of the ACTION system have broad potential in many kinds of manufacturing organizations.



1

computers and people . . . partners in the ACTION system

In its most simple terms, the ACTION system is a balanced integration of

- a computer program
- a Burroughs electronic data processing system
- a manufacturing control plan
- a parts list, or bill of materials file
- "transacting" documents that can be read by both machines and people.

A common pitfall that has stymied development of similar systems has been confusion over the proper role of the computer in relation to people. It is well to realize that the computer is only a tool, and should be treated as such. Unfortunately, however, many manufacturing firms have not fully understood the power and versatility of this tool, and have used their computers only to add speed to existing procedures. Little effort is made in these organizations to use the computer's extensive capabilities as an instrument of control—despite the fact that this is precisely the area in which the computer can be of greatest assistance to management.

The ACTION system puts the computer into its proper perspective in the manufacturing organization. It makes maximum use of the control capabilities of Burroughs EDP systems, provides the optimum amount and kinds of operating and management information *individually addressed by name* to the persons in the organization who need it, and makes it possible to hold each person accountable for the use he makes of this information. With the ACTION system, men control other men and operations with the fullest assistance of the computer.

2

the language of the ACTION system

If computers and people are to be partners, they must talk the same language. People use computers because of the tremendous speed with which the machines process information, their exceptional accuracy and reliability, and the flexibility with which they may be programmed to handle an almost infinite number of tasks in a virtually limitless number of ways. That's why Burroughs computers, the most productive and versatile systems available today, are used to support plant management in the ACTION system.

But computers have their limitations. They do what they are instructed to do—nothing less, nothing more. And despite their inherent accuracy, the usefulness of their results depends greatly on the quality of the raw data they work with. In many cases, so much attention has been given to the requirements of the computer for "clean" input data that the users of the system have been forgotten.

In the ACTION system, the emphasis is on how the computer can help people. The basic documents in the system, for example, are punched cards called "turn-around" documents. They are extremely easy to use, because *both* people and the computer can read them. They are automatically produced by the computer when a production or inventory situation requires action, and are directed by the program to the proper person. When action has been taken, it is so noted on the document, which is returned to the data processing center and used to notify the computer that the action has occurred. The documents and reports produced by the ACTION system use common terms understandable by everybody, rather than complex coding systems.

3

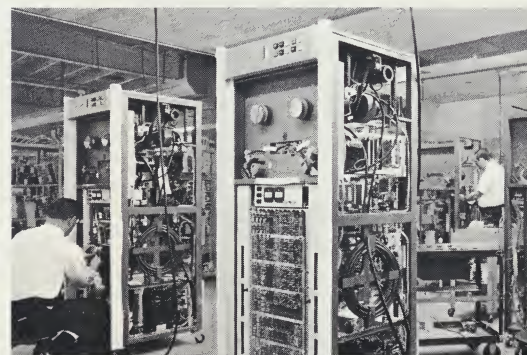
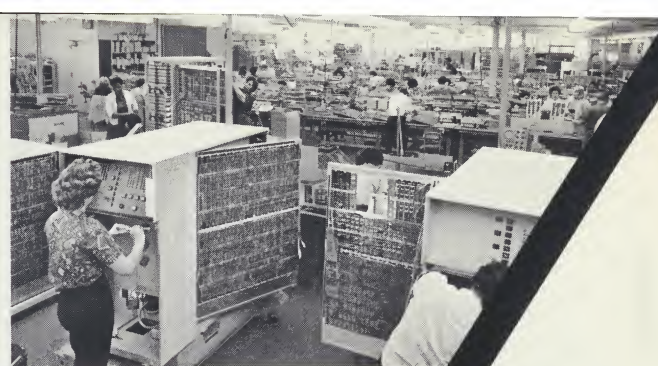
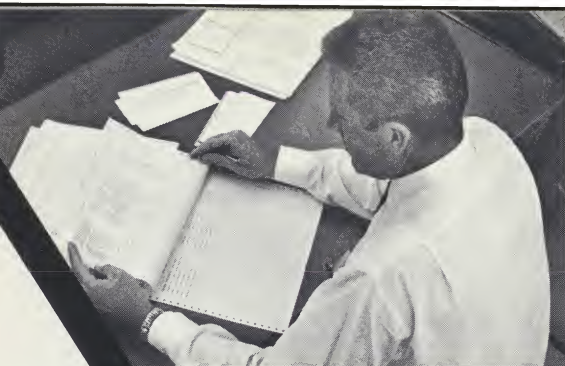
supervision and control in the ACTION system

The ACTION system thrives on complexity, for it applies practical, simple rules to the manufacturing control operation.

One of these rules is that every action request should be followed up. The computer program helps management do this, since it is able to record the date an action request was issued and log in a reply from the responsible person. The status of each outstanding request is examined frequently, and automatic delinquency notices are produced by the computer at planned intervals until action has been taken.

Many such control procedures, over and above those normally found in computerized manufacturing control systems, contribute to the effectiveness of the ACTION system. The performance of all responsible persons, and the effects of their actions or inactivity on the manufacturing operation, are regularly brought to the attention of their superiors in a concise fashion. And unlike even the best supervisors, the computer never forgets nor is too busy to follow up on all situations.

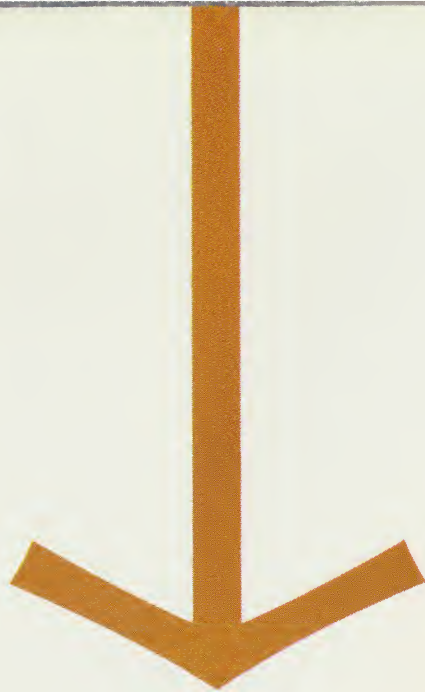
The ACTION system has been a remarkable success in its application of these and many other techniques, in a *practical* way, to manufacturing control problems. Through its contribution to effective management control over shortages, surplus and scheduling, it has helped cut manufacturing costs and increase profits.



ALL MANUFACTURING TRANSACTIONS

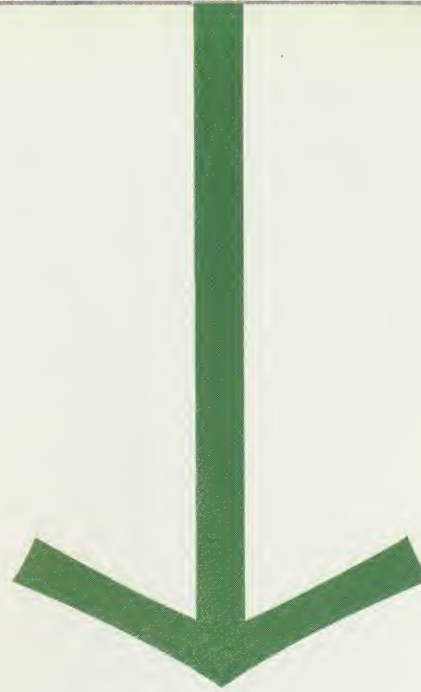


BURROUGHS B 280 EDP SYSTEM



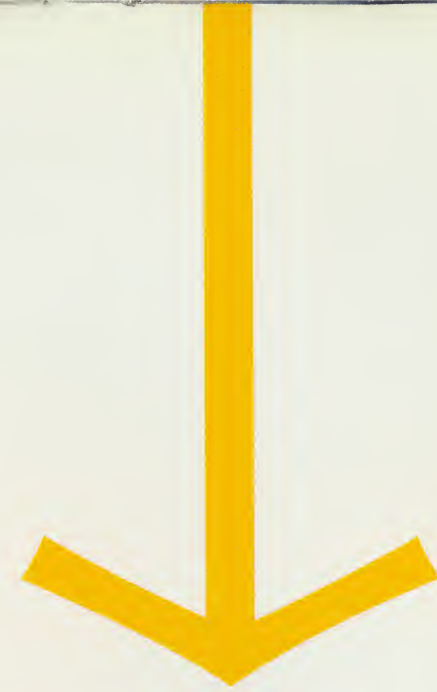
INFORMATION PROCESSING

- "Turn Around" Documents
- Red-Line Method
- Computer Input Accuracy Tests
- Data Collection
- Single Document Flow
- Single Flow of Information



MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

- Selected Data for Decisions
- Management Action Integrated
- Information for Control
- Forecast Information
- Accuracy and Timeliness
- Management Inquiry

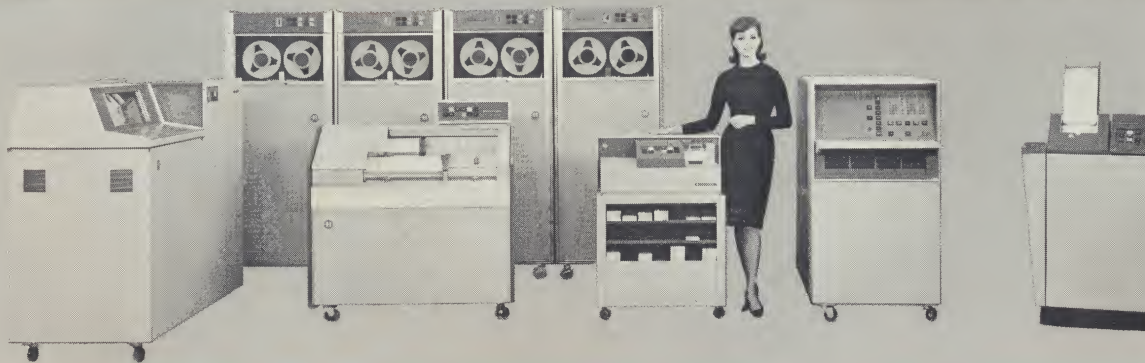


INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

- Exception Reporting
- Addressing Individual Reports
- Easy to Read—in English
- ACT!ON Messages
- Single Format
- Single Terminology

These are the highlights of the ACT!ON system, which provides disciplined information handling methods to produce reliable information, in a useful manner, for operations and management control.

Find out how the principles and concepts of the ACT!ON system can benefit you.



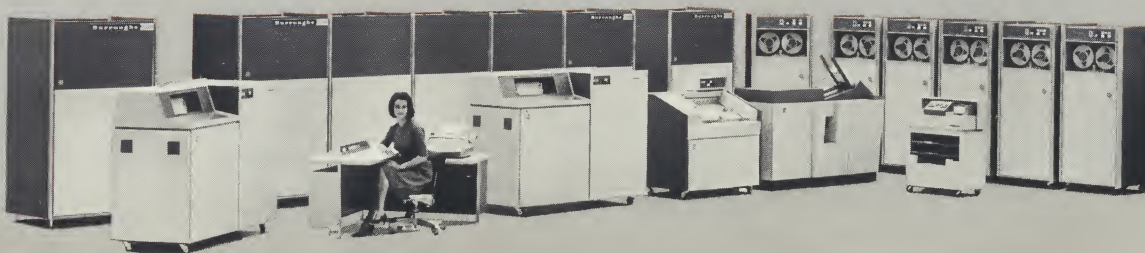
Burroughs B 280/B 283—Up to five unrelated jobs can be processed simultaneously by the B 280 magnetic tape computer system or the more powerful B 283. The systems may include up to six magnetic tape units, card and paper tape handling equipment, and one or two 700-line-a-minute printers. Burroughs On-Line Disk File and Data Communication Systems may also be used with the B 283. With other computers in the B 200 Series, the B 280 and B 283 share a reputation for workhorse productivity that cannot be matched in their class.



Burroughs On-Line Disk File

The Burroughs On-Line Disk File is the fastest random access storage device available, with an average access time to any record in the file of only one-fiftieth of a second. Its all-electronic access makes it five to 10 times faster than competitive systems, and is responsible for the system's exceptionally high reliability. It is used as a massive extension of computer memory where fast access to such files as bills of material is needed.

Burroughs B 5000—The B 5000 Information Processing System is the most advanced large scale computer system in use today. It features extensive capabilities for effective use of COBOL, ALGOL and Fortran, for automatic self-regulating operation, and for multiple job processing.



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